



JACK DOYLE

MONROE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

For Immediate Release:

Monday, August 13, 2001

NOTE: Correction to paragraph 4 **DOYLE ANNOUNCES ESTABLISHMENT** **OF A CHILD FATALITY REVIEW TEAM**

Monroe County Executive Jack Doyle today announced a grant of \$100,583 from the New York State Office of Children and Family Services to create a Child Fatality Review Team (CFRT). The team will thoroughly review all cases of child deaths and severe abuse cases, and develop a database, establish guidelines for investigations, make policy recommendations and share information with other medical personnel and multidisciplinary teams.

“Even one incidence of child abuse is too many, and completely unacceptable,” said Doyle. “Today’s announcement means that we will better use our collective community resources to meet this problem head on, building on what we’ve previously started with our Do Right By Kids campaign and zeroing in on our goal to stop children from being the victims of abuse.”

The Child Fatality Review Team will involve representatives from Child Protective Services (CPS), the medical community, law enforcement, the district attorney’s office, the medical examiner and the regional office of the New York State Office of Children and Family Services.

The number of child fatalities in Monroe County between 1995 and 2000 was 38 and the number of severe physical abuse cases was 117. In 2000, the Monroe County Impact Team investigated 24 cases of serious physical abuse, eight child fatalities and 398 cases of sexual abuse, out of 5,819 child protective reports.

Goals of the CFRT are to:

- Review all cases of child deaths and select cases of serious physical abuse reported to the New York State Central Registry.
- Establish a database to record statistical information concerning child deaths and serious physical abuse. The database will include demographic, social, medical and service-related information for all cases reviewed by the team.

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- Analyze data to determine appropriate ways for the CFRT to expand efforts in the areas of child abuse and fatality prevention.
- Develop and implement cooperative guidelines for the investigation of child deaths based on the database findings.
- Issue a report for each death investigated.
- Once established, help other counties create their own fatality review procedures.

The county will include on the task force two doctors from the Children's Hospital at Strong who are specifically trained medical providers in child abuse: Ann Lenane, M.D., an emergency room physician and Linda Barthauer, M.D., REACH (Referral and Evaluation of Abused Children) Sexual Abuse Clinic Director.

The REACH program assists in the identification, evaluation, treatment and referral of suspected victims of child abuse and their families. Staffed by physicians, social workers and a nurse practitioner, it conducts medical evaluations and forensic interviews of children suspected of abuse. In 2000, nearly 400 children were seen in outpatient or inpatient settings for physical and sexual abuse.

"The CFRT will build upon the successful relationships already established between the agencies currently involved in the investigation and management of child abuse," said Doyle. "We hope this team will ultimately identify ways in which the various services might intervene earlier in high risk cases and thus prevent severe abuse or death."

The University of Rochester will administer this project in collaboration with the county's Department of Social Services. Velma B. Campbell, M.S.W., A.C.S.W., C.SW., principal manager of CPS in Monroe County, will oversee the CFRT.

The grant period is from September 1, 2001 through March 31, 2003 and subject to approval at the Legislature meeting on Tuesday, August 14, 2001.

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